

RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY

25X1A

German Democratic Republic

25X1C

DETAILS ON THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE METALLURGICAL COMBINE WEST (5 pp)

25X1X

This document consists of photostats of a four-page typewritten report and of one map sketch, giving detailed information on the construction of the Metallurgical Combine West in Calbe/Saale.

The report points out that construction work at the Vesta (Federation of People-Owned Iron and Steel Enterprises) plant in Calbe/Saale had to be discontinued because the blueprints for the five low-shaft furnaces, construction of which was planned, turned out to be wrong. Construction of the foundations had been started already before "alert" workers noticed this act of sabotage. Werner Amelung, SED Kreis Secretary from Schoenebeck/Elbe, went personally to Minister Selbmann to unmask the saboteurs. Selbmann, however, just considered this case one of "regrettable erroneous planning". When it was seen that progressive methods, and in particular the progressive technical intelligentsia, did not produce satisfactory results, Wassermann, a former city architect from Dresden, was appointed to head the construction of the plant. In 1950, Wassermann was still an inmate of the Brandenburg prison, and the head of the prisoners' self-administration. He is now on probation and directly under the Ministry of Heavy Industry.

The first part of the first construction project has now progressed to the point where low-shaft furnace number 1 is to start operation on 1 October 1951.

The report gives a detailed legend to the enclosed map sketch, which includes the following objects: The quay wall of the Saale harbor basin, conveyer bridges, ore storage, foundry shop, chimney, etc. The legend points out the different objects to be completed within the first, second, and third construction project.

The report also gives information on the plant's low-voltage lines, central clock system, fire-alarm system, loudspeaker system, the quantity of cables to be laid, etc.

Seven guard towers are to be on the plant site and will be manned by People's Policemen under the command of People's Police Oberkommissar Grude and his assistant Oberkommissar Koerner. At present, the plant is well-guarded, during night-time with the aid of dogs.

25X1A

The foreign language document or a microfilm of it () is available from CIA Library, ()

25X1A

25X1A

17 March 1952

SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLY